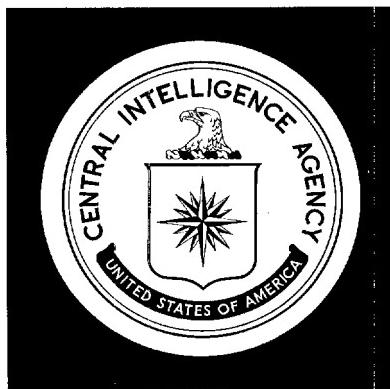


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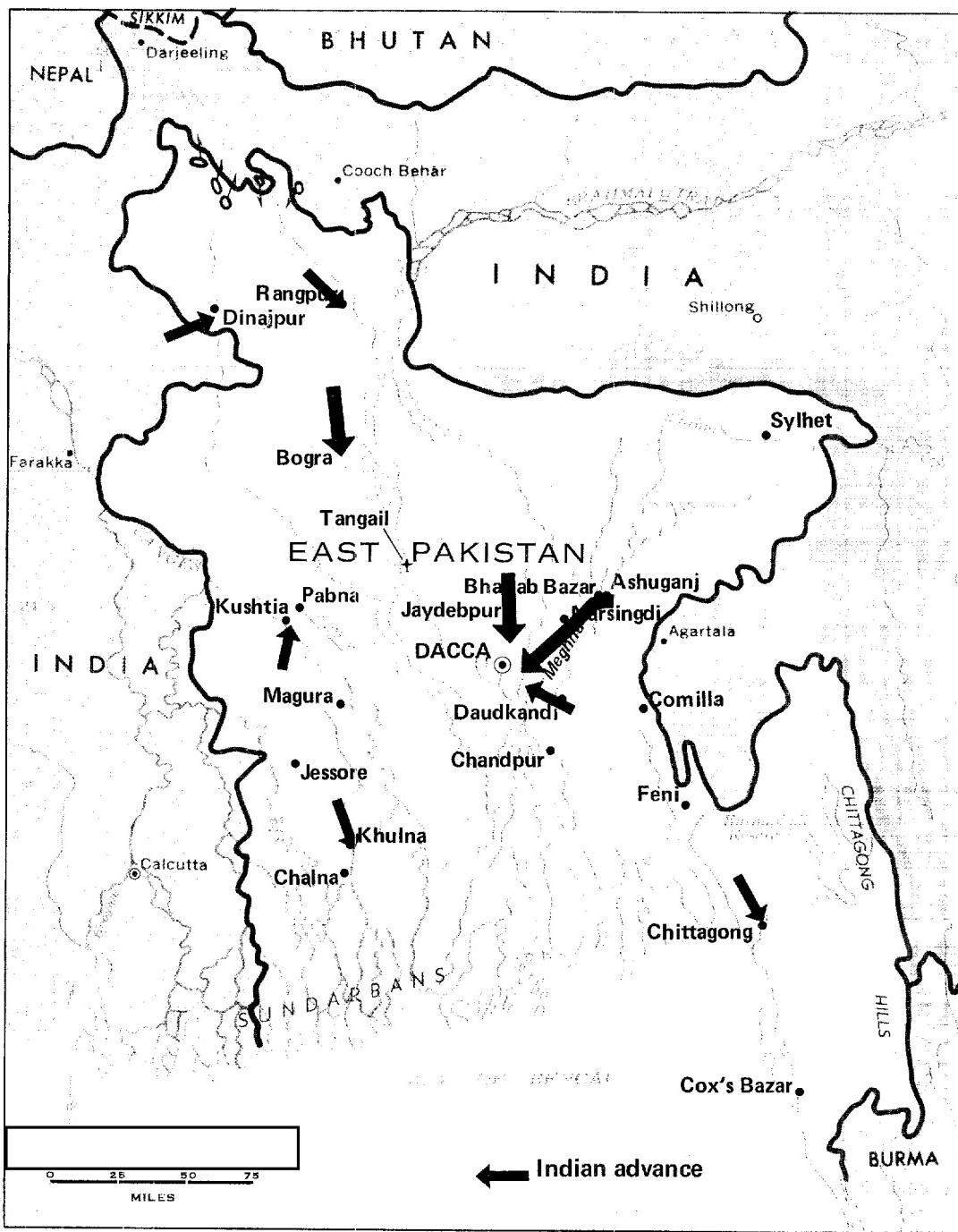
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C INDIA-PAKISTAN: Indian Chief of Staff Manekshaw agreed yesterday to Pakistan's request for a cease-fire in East Pakistan, provided that the Pakistani troops there surrender. Manekshaw, who is in radio contact with the Pakistani commander in Dacca, said that if no agreement had been reached by 2230 EST last night he would order a resumption of Indian air attacks on the city, which were suspended yesterday. The Pakistani commander, General Niazi, was hoping to avoid surrendering in the usual sense. He wanted to be allowed to withdraw his men with their arms to certain areas agreeable to the Indians, to be followed by their repatriation to West Pakistan. The Indians, however, appeared unlikely to grant such conditions. As of 2300 last night there was no information on further developments.

On the East Pakistan battlefield, Indian artillery continues to shell Dacca. New Delhi said yesterday that its forces were closing in further on the city from all directions and in some cases had taken positions about a mile from the city. The Indians also claimed they had advanced to within three miles of the port city of Chittagong and were making headway against Pakistani troops who were still resisting at a few places elsewhere in the province.

In the West, the Indians reportedly bombed Karachi yesterday for the first time in several days. Lahore was also attacked from the air. Land and air action was reported at several other places on the western front, but there apparently were no important new gains by either side.

Anti-American demonstrations are continuing in Indian cities. There were six such demonstrations in Calcutta on 14 December, the largest with about 2,000 participants. More such actions are expected in Calcutta over the next few days. According to US officials in the city, the demonstrations reflect a popular rather than merely a partisan []

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C mood, and the attitude of the demonstrators is the angriest seen there in the past two years. A number of anti-US demonstrations also took place yesterday in New Delhi, including one in which a number of members of Parliament of various political persuasions protested in front of the US Embassy.

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SOUTH VIETNAM: Communist forces are preparing for widespread military activity in the coming weeks.

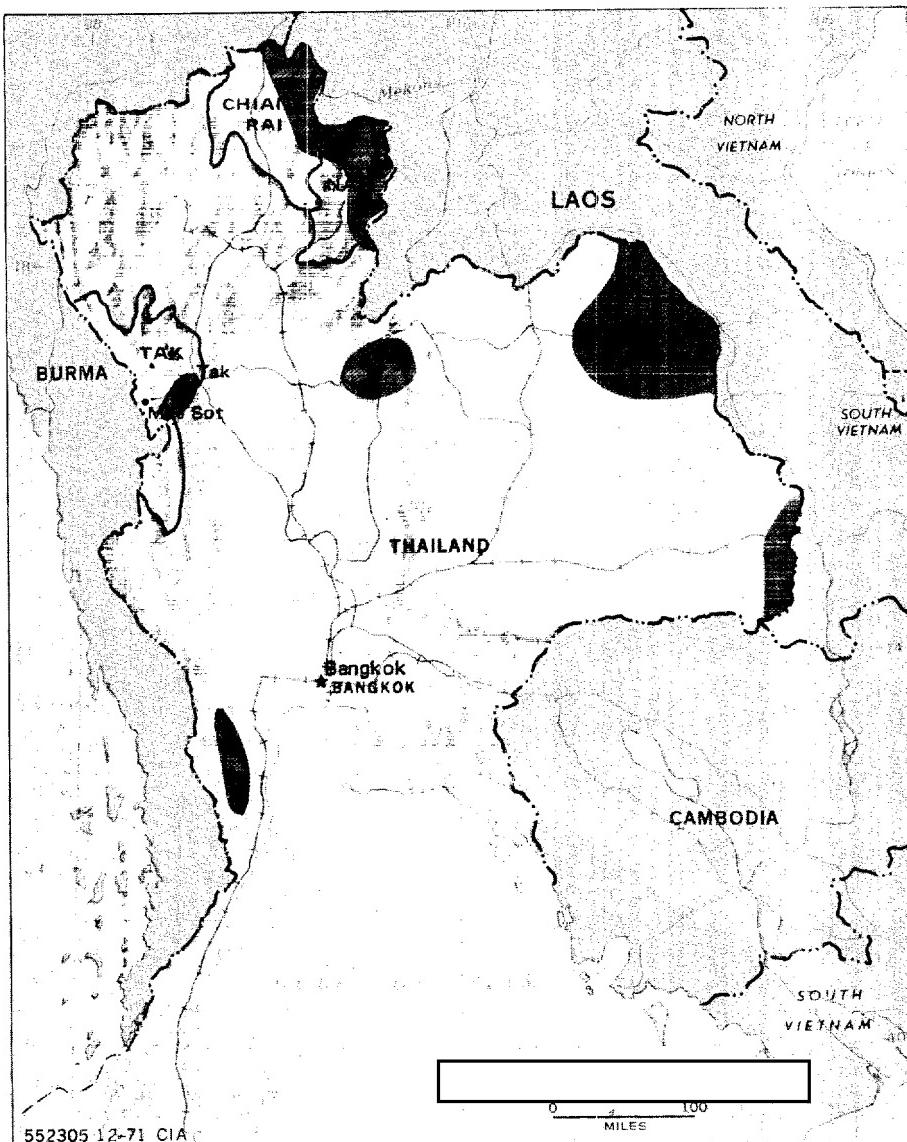
Numerous signs point to stepped-up shellings, limited ground assaults, and attempts to interdict major highways. Directives to enemy troops call for offensive operations to commemorate several Communist holidays--including the 11th anniversary of the National Liberation Front--which fall in late December. Enemy operations in the next few weeks probably will not exceed the intensity of the winter campaign last year; then as now the Communists were employing economy-of-force tactics and the government's counter-operations prevented any serious deterioration of security in the countryside.

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THAILAND: A sharp upturn in insurgency in the north emphasizes the growing capabilities of the Communists in that area.

In a series of skillfully conducted ambushes, Communist insurgents have demonstrated sophisticated tactics and the ability to employ relatively large units. The Communists initiated three separate incidents on 6 December along crucial routes in Nan and Chiang Rai provinces and later conducted a daylight ambush on the important Tak - Mae Sot highway in Tak Province. Government casualties totaled 104. The ambushes, plus increased harassment of road-building crews, suggest a growing focus on interdiction of major roads.

The insurgency in the north is the most rapidly expanding in the country and has superseded the longer-lived one in the northeast as the most worrisome to the Thai Government. The number of insurgents in the north has increased by some 400 to 800 over the past year to a total of 2,300 to 2,700. They are supported by a regional command in a Communist-controlled section of Laos, and they are being outfitted with bloc weapons. Although originally concentrating on subversion of hill tribes long neglected by the Thai Government, over the past year they have penetrated into Thai-populated lowlands contiguous to their mountain base areas. These forays until recently have been limited to recruitment, propaganda, and acquisition of supplies. The temporary seizure of a lowland village astride a main road in Nan Province in late November may portend an effort to expand base areas into the lowlands.

Thai counter-insurgency efforts in the north have been hampered by the difficulty of the terrain and the wariness of hill tribesmen. Even well-executed operations have later been nullified by the failure to maintain a government presence. The Thai Government recently decided to emphasize small-unit operations, saturation patrolling, and frequent contacts with rural villages but, like previous tactical improvements, this decision may suffer in implementation.

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YUGOSLAVIA



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YUGOSLAVIA: The purge of nationalists in the party apparatus may soon be extended into the top levels of the Croatian government.

Croatian Republic Premier Dragutin Haramija's public defense of ousted party leader Mrs. Savka Dabcevic-Kucar two days after she lost her office is a direct challenge to Tito's authority and may cost Haramija his job. Haramija also came close to admitting that there have been cases of police brutality when he admonished police to be mindful of legal curbs on actions they take against protesters. The US Consulate in Zagreb notes that the republic's cabinet offices are unusually busy and that personnel changes in the government may be imminent.

The mood in Zagreb is despondent. The consulate reports that the demonstration on Tuesday night appeared somewhat larger than official estimates of 400 rioters. Police brutality and arrests--sometimes of innocent bystanders--have not intimidated the student demonstrators who are displaying posters denouncing the new Croat party leadership as "imposed dictators."

Some of these leaders, sensitive to charges that they have been imposed on the party apparatus by a heavy-handed, autocratic act on Belgrade's part, are hinting that Tito's intervention in republic affairs was necessary to forestall Soviet involvement.

A purge psychosis is beginning to surface in other parts of Yugoslavia, possibly because party hacks long out of favor sense an opportunity to regain influence and to even old scores. In the Kosovo, local party meetings on Monday and Tuesday denounced the provincial party's handling of nationalism within Pristina University and other political bodies. In Macedonia, the republic central committee was forced to defend Krste Crvenkovski, Tito's second-in-command in the collective presidency, against public charges of nationalist deviation leveled by a veterans association leader in Bosnia-Hercegovina. [redacted]

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JORDAN-FEDAYEEN: The shooting of Jordan's ambassador in London yesterday was probably carried out by Fatah and underlines the Palestine liberation movement's ambition to eliminate the Jordanian regime by assassination.

Zaid Rifai, who served King Husayn as chief of the royal court during the bitter contests with the fedayeen last year, was slightly wounded by submachine gun fire near his embassy in London. The assault was apparently made by a group similar to the Fatah special action team that assassinated Prime Minister Wasfi Tal in Cairo late last month.

The incident heightens the likelihood of further assassination attempts [redacted]

[redacted] Beirut, the effective headquarters of Palestinian resistance activity, is likely to be the main arena for such activity, but shooting affrays could occur in almost any city where senior Jordanian or Palestinian leaders are present.

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USSR-EGYPT: Negotiations for the purchase of Soviet civil aircraft are to begin this week, according to an Egyptian official.

The talks are to focus on the possible purchase of eight TU-154 medium-range jets, and three IL-62 long-range jets, which the Egyptians now are leasing. Cairo also is considering the acquisition of several YAK-40 tri-jet aircraft for training purposes. Egyptian civil air officials have been debating whether to purchase Soviet or US civil aircraft for some time, but no decision has yet been made.

Many Egyptians consider US aircraft to be technically superior to the Soviet planes, but Moscow's attractive financial terms may well be the determining factor. The Soviets, moreover, are expected to put considerable pressure on Egyptian cabinet officials who are expected to reach a decision within the next two months. Deliveries would be made during 1972-74.

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NOTE

CHILE: The Popular Unity coalition has decided to postpone until 20 December a demonstration that it had planned in order to counter a mass opposition rally set for tonight. The Christian Democrats had denounced the planned demonstration as a provocation

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25X1 [redacted] Despite the postponement, however, there is no assurance that the free-wheeling Movement of the Revolutionary Left--possibly urged on by equally violence-prone Socialists--will not carry out plans to harass and intimidate oppositionists on their way to the rally at the National Stadium. To prove the undiminished strength of opposition to the Allende government, the sponsoring Christian Democrats and supporting National Party need a good turnout; the Popular Unity failed to fill the stadium at the farewell rally for Fidel Castro two weeks ago.

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